

fulness I had a year or two ago; and
I often potter rather than work. Very often
have I thought "I will write to Gray"
and then the belief that you were
immersed in your multitudinous
seas of work, and the conviction that
I could write you, in my dulness,
nothing that would interest you, except
expressions of a friendship you could
not doubt, lead to procrastination.
Your note of inquiry revives me, and
I will be a man.

Being unable to excuse (I propose
that word, as a convenient one and
claim the credit of it-) at a distance,
I have added little to our barbarism
in the way of Phoenician or Pictish:
but for some 8 or 10 mo^s have been
hubbubbing about this vicinity looking
for Jungi & for Lichens. Miss Mary
Wilson of this place - one of the most
charming women I know - (there is

something about her which reminds me
of Mr. Gray) has undertaken the Lichens,
and has aided by correspondence with
Tuckerman, Prof. Russell, & others. ^{Can you help her by advice - putting her in correspondence with}
~~people near to that line~~ ^{She is enthusiastic in}
her study of them, & I am pained to act
as her hand in collecting them, her health
forbidding her to search ^{far & long} for them herself.
I am collecting and setting up my Jungi.
I rely, almost wholly, upon Mr. Beck, to
determine them; and it seems that I
have found hereabouts, some nice
things - a few really new to Botanists, &
a few new to this State, ~~&~~ ^{to} the U. States.
It would be much more pleasant, I
suppose, if I could study them myself -
but I have not the necessary books
& instruments, and am willing to
bring them together for the use of
others: Indeed the pleasure of the search,
discovery, & putting up in order, has
been to me a solace.